

To the Members of the California State Senate:

While I support providing low-income parents access to educational opportunities, I am unable to support Senate Bill 1825 as it weakens California's focus on employment and may place our state at higher risk for millions of dollars in federal penalties.

Changes made through the federal reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program challenge the state and counties to significantly increase the number of CalWORKs participants who are working. Allowing parents to receive cash assistance while awaiting acceptance to an educational program without being required to meet "core work" requirements may reduce California's work participation rate and risk millions in federal penalties.

Given the new federal rules and the fact that work is key for families to transition out of poverty, SB 1825 is a step in the wrong direction. For these reasons, I must return it without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger